

## PAVING PROBLEM.

What was Said and Done Last night.

The city council met Wednesday night to inquire into the question of having the streets and sewerage. Captain I. W. Bell of Dallas was present in the interest of both d'are and made the following address, by invitation:

Captain Bell said: Mr. Mayor, and gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen of Fort Worth—I don't know that I can enlighten you very much on the subject of street paving. I simply desire to give you the result of my experience in the business, and also some substantial facts deduced from publications of some of the most competent authorities on the subject. But before proceeding further you must allow me, gentlemen, to congratulate you on the prompt and business-like manner in which you have taken hold of and pushed this matter. I see that you mean business, and are not like your sister city, Dallas, always talking and never acting; and I can truthfully say (and I am borne out in my assertions) by many of the citizens (of Dallas) that for unanimity of action and sentiment in regard to any and all measures pertaining to the material prosperity and advancement of the interests of your city, Fort Worth is far ahead of Dallas. But to the point.

The principal features looked for in a roadway pavement for city traffic, are: Smoothness of surface, good foothold for horses, facility of removal and replacement, cleanliness and noiselessness. With these it is desired also to have durability and cheapness. It is claimed by some of our most eminent city engineers that there is no pavement that possesses all of these material properties. Those authorities had no knowledge of that peerless wood, bois d'are, whose qualities for street paving purposes are not surpassed, and I think I can safely say, equalled by any known material, not excepting the very best quality of Maine granite or Belgian stone blocks, and which comes nearer combining all of the necessary elements that go towards the making of a first class pavement than any other known wood or material. The indestructible nature of this wood does away completely with any fears that sanitarians might advance against wooden pavements, for it is an undisputed fact, and I dare say is known to almost every old Texan, in this bois d'are country that it never rots, even when put under ground or submerged in water, and I have the authority of some of the most reliable men in this country that they have known of its being buried for 25 years and on being taken up was found to be as sound as when placed there. I have also the statement of Mr. Hays, vice president of the Gulf system of railroads, that there is a pavement of this wood in Mexico which has been down forty years and still shows no evidences of decay.

Now in regard to the construction of this pavement: In contemplating the construction of any pavement, the first step in the matter should be to see to the condition of all drains, gullies and water mains, and surface pipes should be laid up to the line of the street, and should be plugged at the ends so that when buildings are erected requiring to connect with the services the roadway need not be opened, and the back fillings may become thoroughly settled before the work on the pavement is commenced.

The bridge builder considers the superstructure and foundation on which his bridge is to rest as the most important study of his operations. The main principals are quite the same in making a permanent pavement, as the life of all pavements depends on their foundations. The nature of your soil may possibly necessitate a heavy foundation, and you fortunately possess, within the limits of your city, a very superior gravel, containing a thorough infusion of oxide of iron, which causes it to adhere by rusting, and will make a very fine concrete foundation. We would recommend that from six to eight inches of the gravel be placed upon the road bed, and after being firmly compacted by running or rolling to a perfectly even and solid surface, we are positive you will then have a firm and substantial foundation. After being thus constructed and bois d'are blocks of irregular sizes three to eight inches in diameter and six inches long laid thereon, and the interstices properly filled and a composition of boiling hot coal tar and pitch poured thereon, we have no hesitancy in saying that Fort Worth will then possess the finest pavement on the American continent, and which will outlive the youngest child now in your city and be the pride and boast of every citizen.

Engineer Smoot read a long article from "Gilmore's Comparative Pavements," which showed asphalt to be the best.

Mr. Brownlee of Dallas said he was putting down stone pavements in Dallas, which could be examined in a week, when work would be done.

Major Twombly was decidedly in favor of putting down stone in front of his property, had seen Hemlock, Cedar and other wood pavements put down and taken up. Wanted the matter fully investigated, expressing full confidence in the municipal board.

Mr. Roach was called upon for remarks, but had nothing to say.

Captain Bailey said in two or three weeks he could say something on the question; was opposed to wooden pavements.

Councilman Elser said the council had been posting itself for months, so much so, they were accused of unnecessary delay.

Mr. Wilkins thought gravel from the river would alone make a good street.

Mr. McCart said it would cost \$100,000 to pave two streets, Main and Houston. Nicholson pavement had proved a failure in Bloomington, Ill. He then read the law governing the matter of collecting taxes for paving streets.

Article 475 revised statutes, city charter, reads:

"Whenever the city council conclude to pave the streets, they shall cause an estimate to be made of the probable cost thereof by the city engineer, and the city engineer shall report a full list of all lots and the owner thereof, and it shall be the duty of the city engineer to enter on said list opposite each lot lying and being upon each side of the street to be im-

proved one-third of the estimated expense for such work and on the acceptance and approval of said report and list by the city council said amount shall be assessed as taxes and shall be a lien upon the property until payment of same, and said taxes shall be collected in annual payments, not less than five in number."

Mayor Smith wanted to do what was best for the city if it took three weeks.

Messrs Lake and Brownlee invited council and city engineer to visit quarries, near Millsap, at no cost to the city. It was decided to accept the offer.

The question of sewers was discussed to some extent but not fully, it being thought best to wait in regard to them. On motion adjourned.

Mr. J. H. Haverly has already made arrangements for the appearance of Mr. Henry Irving at his Chicago and Brooklyn theatres.

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**Citation No. 2,545.**

STATE OF TEXAS.

To the Sheriff, or any Constable of Tarrant County, Texas.

You are hereby commanded that, by making publication of this citation in some newspaper published in the county of Tarrant, State of Texas, for four consecutive weeks previous to the return day thereof, you summon William M. Robinson, whose residence is unknown, to be and appear before the next term of the district court, to be holden within and for the county of Tarrant, at the court house thereof, in the city of Fort Worth, on the seventh Monday after the 1st of November, A. D. 1882, then and there to answer the petition of Robert Toombs and G. W. Crawford, filed in said court, to wit: the 24th day of February, 1882, against the said William M. Robinson, and alleging in substance that the said Robinson, assignee of William M. Robinson, that on the 27th day of June, 1880, the said M. L. Trimble, assignee of the said Robinson, for a valuable consideration, sold, transferred and set over to H. G. Catlett, R. Toombs and G. W. Crawford all his right, title, claim and interest in and to a certain headright certificate No. 21, heretofore mentioned, which was duly acknowledged on the 25th day of June, 1880, before the county clerk of Tarrant county, Texas, and recorded in the September, 1871, in Tarrant county, in book M of record of deeds, and re-recorded in Tarrant county on the 11th day of December, 1878, in book L, page 63, in record of deeds; that subsequent to said 25th day of June, 1880, said Catlett, Toombs and Crawford located and purchased the interest of the said Robinson, on the Trinity River, about — miles northwest from Fort Worth; that on the 14th day of May, 1880, the state of Texas issued a patent, No. 1,085, volume 1, to said land to William M. Robinson; that said patent should have been issued to the said Catlett, Toombs and Crawford; that the issuance of said patent as aforesaid, under the law, in favor of the said Robinson, was executed and carried out, and having issued to the said Robinson as aforesaid, casts a cloud upon plaintiff's title. That since the issuance of said patent and transfer of said certificate to the said Catlett and the said Crawford have both departed this life, and the plaintiff herein has purchased the interest of the heirs of the said H. G. Catlett and the said G. W. Crawford, and for a valuable consideration, all the said heirs aforesaid have been deceased, and delivered to this plaintiff warranty deeds, their interest in said land; that plaintiffs have possessed of said land, have paid the taxes thereon, etc., etc.; Wherefore, plaintiff prays judgment: that the cloud cast upon his title be removed; that all title out of said William M. Robinson, and vesting title in the simple and to said lands in plaintiff, his heirs and assigns forever, costs of suit, etc. herein fall not out of his due return, but with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Witness my hand and the seal of the district court of Tarrant county, Texas, this 15th day of December, A. D. 1882.

J. M. HARTSPFELD, Clerk District Court, Tarrant Co., Texas.

JOHN S. KENNEDY, Plaintiff's Attorney.

**NOTICE.**

**SPECIAL LAW.**

Notice is given that I will apply to the legislature of the state of Texas that is to convene on the second Tuesday in January, 1883, for the passage of an act to refund \$142.10 paid into the state treasury in two payments, on April 1, 1878, and May 1, 1880, by the said No. 2, made by virtue of land scrip No. 21,413, issued to the S. A. & M. G. R. R. Co. for land in the county of Tarrant, Texas, and that I will apply to the legislature of the state of Texas that is to convene on the second Tuesday in January, 1883, for the passage of an act to refund \$142.10 paid into the state treasury in two payments, on April 1, 1878, and May 1, 1880, by the said No. 2, made by virtue of land scrip No. 21,413, issued to the S. A. & M. G. R. R. 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